



Climate change and public health policy: Translating the science

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Abstract:

Public health authorities are required to prepare for future threats and need predictions of the likely impact of climate change on public health risks. They may get overwhelmed by the volume of heterogeneous information in scientific articles and risk relying purely on the public opinion articles which focus mainly on global warming trends, and leave out many other relevant factors. In the current paper, we discuss various scientific approaches investigating climate change and its possible impact on public health and discuss their different roles and functions in unraveling the complexity of the subject. It is not our objective to review the available literature or to make predictions for certain diseases or countries, but rather to evaluate the applicability of scientific research articles on climate change to evidence-based public health decisions. In the context of mosquito borne diseases, we identify common pitfalls to watch out for when assessing scientific research on the impact of climate change on human health. We aim to provide guidance through the plethora of scientific papers and views on the impact of climate change on human health to those new to the subject, as well as to remind public health experts of its multifactorial and multidisciplinary character.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Meteorological Factors, Precipitation, Temperature

Temperature: Fluctuations

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Europe

Health Impact:



specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease

Infectious Disease: Vectorborne Disease

Vectorborne Disease: Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: General Mosquito-borne Disease

Model/Methodology: 

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Methodology, Other Projection Model/Methodology

Other Projection Model/Methodology: discussion only

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale: 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified